



## Water Supply Outlook

The water supply situation and outlook are considered fair due to the persistence of very dry and warm conditions since February. For the three-month period including February, March and April, the precipitation in the Cedar River watershed this year was about 13 inches, less than half of average, and the second lowest in 75 years of record keeping. The first part of May has also been rather dry. The mountain snowpack is melting off earlier than normal and very dry conditions are present in the lower elevation streams of the Puget Sound region. We are starting off the summer with approximately 85 percent of full mountain reservoir active storage in the watersheds, and unless normal weather patterns return in May and June, the relative dryness of the watersheds will cause the reservoirs to decline faster than in an average year.

The winter snowpack accumulation in the Cedar basin is about 37 percent of average for this time of year, with significant melt-off of the snow being observed since early March, which is quite early. Chester Morse Lake's water surface elevation is currently at 1555.9 feet, about 1.7 feet less than average for this time of year. Masonry Pool's water surface is in near equilibrium with Morse Lake and is currently at 1555.8 feet. The South Fork Tolt Reservoir is at 1756.3 feet, about 5.5 feet less than average. Streamflows below SPU facilities on the Cedar and South Fork Tolt rivers are being held at or near the guaranteed normal minimum flow levels for this time of year. Some precipitation

was recorded last week in the watersheds.

Water consumption for the 7-day period ending May 16 averaged 143 mgd. That average is greater than the 121 mgd consumed during the same period last year, and equal to the average of 143 mgd used during the same period over the years 1994-2000.



## Water Quality Technical Forum Report

### Chlorine Residual and Coliform Data from April 2004

There was one positive coliform sample in purveyor areas during April 2004. Average chlorine residual concentrations in the purveyor distribution systems ranged from 0.5 to 1.2 mg/L during April, with an overall average of 0.8 mg/L. The target residual at the Tolt Treatment facility was 1.5 mg/L and the Cedar target residual was raised to 2.0 mg/L on April 19th, but then lowered to 1.8 again on May 5th.

### Taste and Odor

The taste and odor panel is now meeting weekly. Samples are rated on a scale from 1 to 9, with 1 representing the best and 9 representing the worst. The taste and odor flavor rating assessment (FRA) for the most recent Cedar distribution sample was 3.6, with earthy/grassy/plastic taste. The Tolt supply was 2.0 with a chlorinous taste. The spring algae bloom is now over, but there quite a few Daphnia in the water column, which can cause

screen clogging and may contribute to taste and odor problems in a slow moving distribution system. If you would like to receive a weekly update of the taste and odor panel results, please e-mail Moya Joubert at [moya.joubert@seattle.gov](mailto:moya.joubert@seattle.gov)

### Lead and Copper

Roughly 320 of the 375 lead and copper samples have been analyzed for this round. So far results look similar to last round. Final results should be available by late June.

In light of recent attention to the Lead and Copper Rule at the national level, SPU has received questions in regard to the Seattle system and whether or not lead service lines are an issue. SPU does not use lead service lines currently and has not used lead service lines historically. Previous results above the action level in 1992 and 1997 were due to the corrosive nature of the water in contact with interior plumbing containing lead. Residential compliance results from our regional monitoring program has shown that when lead is detected in water samples, the primary source is interior building plumbing that utilized copper pipe and lead solder.

A limited number of lead connectors were used in the past for connecting some galvanized service lines (which constitute a small percentage of all service lines) to distribution mains. The connectors are either 3/4 or 1-inch diameter and approximately 18-inches long. There is reasonable documentation on which portions of the SPU system have galvanized service lines installed decades ago, but there is not a good record on which of these lines have lead connectors. Moreover, flushed samples from residential taps (indicative of distribution system water quality) and distribution samples have had very low to non-detectable results for

lead. As SPU continues to remove/replace galvanized service lines, if any lead connectors are found, they are removed.

Fall 2003 monitoring indicated that corrosion optimization efforts have been effective with the 90th percentile lead results at 7.9 ug/L. A second round is under way that will be complete by the first part of July, and we expect 90th percentile results below the action level again.

SPU Contact: Wylie Harper, (206) 684-7880 or Lynn Kirby, (206) 684-0216.



## Conservation Technical Forum Summary

**On the web at [www.seattle.gov/util/purveyors](http://www.seattle.gov/util/purveyors)**

*(The following only applies to Full, Partial and Purveyor contract holders)*

### MARKETING

#### Mariner Baseball Call for Volunteers

Last month the Water Conservation Coalition of Puget Sound chose Fisher Broadcasting to promote its water conservation messages during the summer. Fisher was chosen because the company offered a generous Mariner radio campaign that includes pre and post game programming throughout July and August and visibility at the KOMO MOJO Machine. The coalition is purchasing a Wayne Drop costume for appearances before five home games. Volunteers are needed to wear the Wayne Drop costume and to assist in handing out information prior to game start (2 volunteers per game are desired). In return, these volunteers will receive free admission to the game. Game dates are July 21, July 24, August 14, August 24 and August 28. Please let Cornell know if there is any interest to volunteer and for what date(s).  
CONTACT: Cornell Amaya, (206) 386-1170

## **YOUTH EDUCATION**

### **Water System Poster Wins Top AWWA Award**

The hard copy and interactive version of "Seattle's Regional Water System" poster won top honors in the PNWAWWA Excellence in communications awards contest. The hard copy version depicts a map of the water system surrounded by images showing and describing the process of bringing water to customers. The interactive version features virtual tours of both watersheds, pictures and descriptions of system elements, stylized diagrams and hotlinks to real-time data on water supply and home pages. Posters were developed as outreach tools for members of the Saving Water Partnership. Copies of the poster in lots of 100 are available by calling Mike Mercer.

CONTACT: Mike Mercer, (206) 684-0570

## **RESIDENTIAL INDOOR**

### **New Multifamily Program Begins**

On May 1st, the new Multifamily Toilet Rebate Program started up. The program is actually an update to the old program. Now, all participants in the program will be required to install a toilet model from an approved list of toilets. Toilets from the list will provide better water savings for the utility and a greater level of performance confidence for customers. The current program runs through September 30, 2004. Since 2001, 560 buildings throughout SWP region have replaced 12,156 toilets through the multifamily program.

CONTACT: David Broustis, (206) 684-4150

## **RESIDENTIAL LANDSCAPE**

### **Northwest Natural Yard Days Kicks Off for 2004**

Northwest Natural Yard Days has begun its two month run in 27 stores in King County (47 region wide). All discounts this year are a part of regular in-store sales. Discounted items include Electric mulching mowers, push reel mowers, organic lawn fertilizers, weed pullers,

compost water timers, soaker hoses, insecticidal soap, less-toxic moss control and less-toxic slug bait. Most discounts are 25% or better.

Staff training has been provided to most stores and secret shoppers are being deployed to check up on how effectively store staff are helping shoppers searching for Northwest Natural Yard Days sales. It is too early to get any sales results, but anecdotal reports are that sales are brisk.

CONTACT: Carl Woestwin, (206) 684-4684

### **High Peak User Survey**

The final version of the report for this survey of high peak users in our service area is in the last stages of completion. The information gleaned from this survey proved very useful in designing our spring campaign to promote appropriate plant selection, as well as our summer campaign to promote efficient watering.

CONTACT: Nota Lucas (206) 684-5855

### **Water Efficient Irrigation Rebate (WEIR)**

The summer 2004 marketing campaign is currently being developed to target high peak residential customers with and without automatic irrigation systems. Customers will be targeted through direct mail, their contractors, and general media sources (e.g. bus, newspaper and radio). All outreach pieces will reference the residential rebate program, the Natural Lawn and Garden Hotline, and the Saving Water Partnership ET Webpage.

CONTACT: Jenna Smith, (206) 684-5955

### **Local Businesses Honored for Water Conservation Practices**

The Resource Venture, and program partners including the Saving Water Partnership, honored eleven organizations at the **3rd Annual BEST Awards Ceremony** on May 13, 2004. The BEST (Businesses for an Environmentally Sustainable Tomorrow) Awards celebrate notable "green" achievements by organizations in the greater

Seattle area. Four awards specifically showcased water conservation efforts, including:

- Water Conservation – **University of Washington, Facilities Services Department**
- Sustainable Building – **Archdiocesan Housing Authority, Environmental Works and Rafn Company** (co-winners for Traugott Terrace) AND **City of Seattle, NBBJ and Hoffman Construction** (co-winners for the Seattle Justice Center)
- Innovation – **Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center** (co-winner)
- Environmental Leadership (the top award) – **Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center**

A few of the highlights from the Ceremony include:

- Last year, the **Facilities Services Department at UW** replaced **100** conventional urinals with water-free urinals. The combined fixtures will save approximately **3.5 million gallons of water per year** and roughly **\$32,000 per year** in avoided water and sewer costs.
- Each of the 50 units at **Traugott Terrace**, a new affordable housing project in Belltown, has

**1.5 gallon-per-minute faucets and showerheads.**

The building also uses water-saving, front-loading washing machines.

- A **water-harvesting system** at the **Justice Center** collects rainwater that falls on the green roof, the roof rain leaders and the paved plaza and stores it in an under-ground tank for reuse at a later time. This reduces the building's consumption of city potable water to **irrigate plants or charge the water feature in the public plaza.**
- Recent **Fred Hutchinson projects** – ranging from the use of **irrigation rain sensors** to the installation of **more-efficient glass washers** – are **saving the Center over 7.7 million gallons of water annually.**

For more detailed information about the winners' practices, visit [www.resourceventure.org/rv/services/awards-and-rec/best/2004-winners/index.php](http://www.resourceventure.org/rv/services/awards-and-rec/best/2004-winners/index.php). Also, site tours of the winning companies and organizations can be arranged upon request.

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